



# FRIDAY MORNING HUDDLE

*A gathering of Oregon nursing workforce leaders together to offer timely updates and share insights from peers and stakeholders.*

**DATE: October 2, 2020**

## Nursing Education:

**Students Back in Class:** Nursing educators report that students are back in class, either virtually or in-person. So far, things have been going well on most campuses. George Fox students are attending classes in person and approximately 1100 students are living in residential housing at this time. The university has put mandates/procedures in place to encourage and enable social distancing among students. They have had 5 positive cases on campus, none among nursing students. Linfield University tested all students when they returned to campus. They have also reported fewer than 5 cases at their campuses. Students will attend classes in-person until the Thanksgiving holiday and will then transition to distance learning until the end of the Winter Break. University of Portland has students participating in classes virtually, but junior and senior students are attending in-person simulation and skills labs.

**NCLEX Test Updates:** Oregon State Board of Nursing reported that NCSBN's testing partners continue to monitor test access for nursing students. Students experiencing test delays are encouraged to register for the first available date and check daily for earlier test times. Beginning October 1, NCSBN reintroduced 15 pre-screening questions to the NCLEX test. In addition to these questions, students will receive a minimum of 60 questions, maximum of 130 questions, over a maximum 5-hour test period. Students also have the option to preview new NCLEX test questions. The new version of the NCLEX test has a launch date sometime in 2023.

## Nursing Workforce:

**Contact Tracing Staff/Students:** Asante Health asked facilities to share what methods they are using to contact trace students (and staff) who may have been exposed to COVID positive individuals during their clinical rotations. Current working model is to have the facility's COVID-19 response team reach out to schools as soon as a case is identified so the school can identify/notify students potentially exposed. University of Portland has communicated with all their clinical partners and asked them to contact a specific point-person at the School of Nursing who can inform the school's COVID response team. Many organizations including Asante, Kaiser Permanente, the VA are utilizing the medical record to identify staff who have had contact with COVID positive patients. The VA has found that when staff are alerted to exposure on a unit, staff have been quick to self-identify if they might have also been exposed to that particular patient.

**Floating Staff/Students:** Asante asked how other facilities are tracing floating staff/students within facilities. The VA shared they stopped floating staff many months ago because they had an instance where this led to COVID spread at their facility. Instead of floating staff to accommodate patients, they huddle daily and units where floats would be necessary can close to new admits and unit leadership steps in and assist with patient care.

**Resources:**

**Wildfire Resources:** A [list of wildfire resources](#) is available from the State of Oregon. [Oregon Community Foundation](#) has established a relief fund.

**COVID-19 Vaccine Framework:** Developed by the CDC and NIH, this document contains highlights from the proposed framework.

**OPHA Annual Conference:** The latest in public health research and trends, focused learning sessions, thought-provoking speakers, and plenty of networking opportunities.

**Nurses: A Year, A Moment, A Celebration!** Join OCN for this free virtual event on October 8.

**NEXT HUDDLE:  
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9, 8 A.M.**

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## Summary of Modifications to the NCLEX-RN® and NCLEX-PN® Examinations Starting Oct. 1, 2020

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In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, NCSBN introduced several carefully evaluated and tested modifications to the NCLEX examinations.

To ensure the reliability and legal defensibility of the exam, NCSBN conducted numerous simulations and comparisons against historical NCLEX results along with continuous evaluation of the modifications to the exam put into place during the COVID-19 pandemic. All modifications and live exam results confirmed the consistency of measurement properties and did not identify any negative impact on candidate results or testing experiences.

These modifications are set to expire on Sept. 30, 2020. Based on the continued statistical and psychometric strength of the modifications, NCLEX exams will retain some of the characteristics of the modified exam while reinstating some of the essential aspects of the exam that were put on hold because of the pandemic. The exam will continue to utilize the computer adaptive testing (CAT) methodology for administration and scoring. The NCLEX Test Plans will remain the same and the passing standard will not change.

Beginning Oct. 1, 2020, the following modifications will be made to both the NCLEX-RN and NCLEX-PN examinations:

- Pretest items will be reintroduced. Each candidate will get 15 pretest items in their exam.
- The minimum number of scored items will be 60, and the maximum number of scored items will be 130.
- Due to the addition of the 15 pretest items, the minimum length exam will be 75 items and the maximum length exam will be 145 items.
- Examination time will be five hours.
- Given the changes to the maximum exam length and the testing time, the current Run Out of Time (R.O.O.T) scoring rule is no longer applicable.
  - The final ability estimate will be computed from the responses to all completed items. Those scoring above the passing standard will have a passing exam, otherwise the exam will be scored as a fail.
- The voluntary NGN Special Research Section will be reintroduced.
  - We encourage all candidates to participate in this important research effort for the nursing profession. Additional information about this important research can be viewed at [NGN FAQs](#).
- The NCLEX Tutorial will be replaced with a general guide and test taking tips.
  - All candidates are strongly encouraged to take the [online tutorial](#) to practice with the item types prior to sitting for the exam.

**If you have any specific questions about the examination changes, please contact NCLEX information at [nclexinfo@ncsbn.org](mailto:nclexinfo@ncsbn.org).**